Current Intelligence Digest

DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

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(Information as of 1200 EST)

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Vietnam

The continuing heavy pace of enemy attacks in northwestern III Corps of South Vietnam indicates that the Communists are placing a high military priority on this region.

The Communists may hope to establish another main force enclave in this area similar to those in the DMZ and central highlands which will help relieve allied pressure on North Vietnamese and Viet Cong units deployed closer to South Vietnam's population centers along the coast and in the Saigon area. The northwestern area of III Corps, like the DMZ and the highlands, provides a battleground with favorable terrain features, nearby out-of-country sanctuaries, and access to main supply routes from Cambodia and Laos.

The recent movement of two new enemy regiments into the northwestern III Corps area--the North Vietnamese 88th from the highlands and the Viet Cong

275th from Phuoc Tuy Province--provides further evidence of Communist intent to dominate this region. At the present time elements of three major enemy units are located here, the Viet Cong 5th and 9th divisions and the North Vietnamese 7th Division.

Meanwhile, Communist forces have intensified their activity in northern Kontum Province.

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[redacted] the Dak Pek Special Forces camp indicates that a patrol from the camp was badly battered in an enemy ambush on 27 November.

On 29 November two South Vietnamese battalions engaged an estimated 500-man enemy force, believed to be subordinate to the North Vietnamese 24th Regiment, nine miles northeast of the US stronghold at Dak To. One hundred thirty enemy were reported killed, while friendly casualties were light.

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